

**CHARLIE BAKER**  
*Governor*



**KARYN POLITO**  
*Lt. Governor*

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### **Governor Baker Makes Two Judicial Nominations**

**BOSTON** – Today, Governor Charlie Baker nominated Michael D. Ricciuti as an Associate Justice of the Superior Court, and Susan V. Oker as an Associate Justice of the Juvenile Court. Ricciuti has decades of service in both the private and public sectors and Oker is a distinguished litigator with years of experience in educational and youth advocacy work in the Juvenile Court.

“With decades of experience in the court system and dedication to public service, Michael Ricciuti and Susan Oker will bring to the bench the temperament and work ethic necessary to serve the people of the Commonwealth with distinction and honor,” **said Governor Charlie Baker**. “I am pleased to recommend them to the Governor’s Council for review.”

Ricciuti is being nominated for the seat vacated by The Honorable Kimberly S. Budd, and Oker for the seat vacated by The Honorable Gwendolyn R. Tyre.

“I have the utmost confidence that these two experienced attorneys possess the judgment and character to dispense justice with integrity,” **said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito**. “Both Mr. Ricciuti and Ms. Oker have had distinguished careers and extensive experience in the courts they are nominated to, and I look forward to the Governor’s Council’s consideration.”

The Superior Court is comprised of 82 justices in 20 courthouses across all 14 counties and is a statewide court of general jurisdictions that handles a broad variety of civil litigation in matters of contract, injury, civil rights, and others with amounts in controversy exceeding \$25,000. In addition, the Court oversees criminal matters including homicide, sex offenses,

robbery, and financial fraud. Approximately 65% of the cases are civil lawsuits and the remaining 35% are criminal proceedings.

For more information about the Massachusetts Superior Court, visit <http://www.mass.gov/courts/court-info/trial-court/sc/>

The Juvenile Court Department is a statewide court with jurisdiction over civil and criminal matters including delinquencies, youthful offender cases, care and protections and children requiring assistance cases. The Juvenile Court has 41 judges, including the Chief Justice, in over 40 locations.

For more information about the Juvenile Court, please visit: <http://www.mass.gov/courts/court-info/trial-court/juv/>

Judicial nominations are subject to the advice and consent of the Governor's Council. Applicants for judicial openings are reviewed by the Judicial Nominating Commission (JNC) and recommended to the governor. Governor Baker established the JNC in February, 2015 pursuant to Executive Order 558, a non-partisan, non-political Commission composed of volunteers from a cross-section of the Commonwealth's diverse population to screen judicial applications. Twenty-one members were later appointed to the JNC in April, 2015.

#### **About Michael D. Ricciuti**

Since 2005, Michael Ricciuti has been a Partner at K&L Gates LLP where he handles civil and criminal government enforcement matters, complex civil litigation and internal investigations. Ricciuti has also been an Adjunct Instructor and Faculty Member at Suffolk University Law School since 1985 teaching Constitutional Law and criminal process and procedure. In 1995, he was appointed an Assistant United States Attorney in Boston, where he prosecuted a number of significant cases over the next 10 years, serving three years as Chief of the Anti-Terrorism and National Security Unit. After graduating from Harvard Law School in 1987, he clerked for Judge A. David Mazzone, spent a year as an Assistant District Attorney in Norfolk County and became a trial attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. In 1991 he returned to Massachusetts, and for four years was as a litigation associate at Hill & Barlow. He graduated in 1984 from Harvard College with an A.B. in Government.

#### **About Susan V. Oker**

Susan Oker has had a long career in public service and currently serves as an Attorney in Charge for the Youth Advocacy Division of the Committee for Public Counsel Services ("CPCS"). Here, Oker handles youthful offender, delinquency and Child Requiring Assistance matters in the Juvenile Court and performs educational advocacy in school disciplinary hearings and special education meetings. Oker joined CPCS in Essex County in 1985, carrying a caseload of serious felony matters, such as manslaughter, armed robbery and assault,

rape, and drug trafficking. Oker later served as Director of the Essex County District Court Office and Director of the Harvard Mental Disability Law Clinic, providing legal representation and advocacy services to residents of Boston in-patient psychiatric facilities. She is a member of the Massachusetts Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and earlier served on the North Shore Women's Law Association Board of Directors. Ms. Oker graduated from Mount Holyoke College with a B.A.,cum laude and from Northeastern University School of Law in 1984.